

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 05800 111248Z

ACTION SCS-06

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TAGS: PINS SOCI PL

SUBJ: DAVID ANDELMAN: NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER

1. DAVID ANDELMAN, NEW YORK TIMES EASTERN EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT BASED IN BELGRADE, WAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS YESTERDAY, JULY 10, IN URSUS. HE WAS ON AN INTERPRESS-ARRANGED TOUR OF THE URSUS FACTORY ACCOMPANIED BY HIS INTERPRETER, ANDRZEJ CHLAPOWSKI, A FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND TRANSLATOR WHO OFTEN WORKS FOR INTERPRESS. ON LEAVING THE FACTORY THEY ATTEMPTED TO TAKE PICTURES OF PEOPLE WAITING IN A LINE FOR SAUSAGES TO BE DISTRIBUTED. SECURITY POLICE PICKED THEM BOTH UP, DESPITE THEIR PROTESTS AND DESPITE DOCUMENTS THEY HAD SHOWING THEY WERE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT (AMONG OTHER DOCUMENTS, THEY SHOWED THE BUSINESS CARD OF THE HEAD OF THE FACTORY).

2. THE TWO MEN WERE HELD IN SEPARATE ROOMS FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS UNTIL A RESPONSIBLE LOCAL SECURITY TYPE ARRIVED. AFTER MORE QUESTIONING, THEY WERE RELEASED, WITH APOLOGIES FROM INTERPRESS. ANDELMAN IS SEEING WOJCIECHOWSKI TODAY AND WILL PRESUMABLY RECEIVE ANOTHER APOLOGY.

3. COMMENT: ANDELMAN HAD GON TO THE URSUS PLANT WITH
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 05800 111248Z

THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF OBSERVING PLANT OPERATIONS. ACTUALLY, THOUGH, HE HAD WANTED TO GO BECAUSE HE HAD HEARD THAT, AT LEAST AT THIS ONE PLANT, MEAT RATIONS WERE BEING GIVEN TO WORKERS. SINCE A JOURNALIST FROM SOME BRITISH PUBLICATION WAS GOING TO THE SAME PLANT, FOR OBSERVATION OF PLANT OPERATIONS, ANDELMAN WAS ABLE TO GET INCLUDED IN THE SAME PROJECT. HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE BRITISH

JOURNALIST CAME AND LEFT WITHOUT INCIDENT.

4. ANDELMAN TOLD ME HE WAS RATHER FRIGHTENED BY THE WHOLE INCIDENT. HE SAID HE WAS NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO HIM, BUT THAT IT GAVE HIM A GLIMPSE OF WHAT AVERAGE POLES, WHO DO NOT HAVE THE BACKING OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, ARE UP AGAINST. DESPITE HIS OWN STATUS HE WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS, WITHOUT AN INTERPRETER OR ANYONE WHO SPOKE ENGLISH, NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY CALLS.

5. TO ANDELMAN, THE INCIDENT IS EVIDENCE THAT THE HARD-NOSED SECURITY TYPES ARE STILL AROUND AND IN BUSINESS, AT LEAST ON THE LOCAL LEVEL. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE A MAJOR INCIDENT OUT OF THIS IN HIS REPORTING, HOWEVER. IT WILL PROBABLY BE A PARAGRAPH OR TWO IN AN ARTICLE HE IS DOING ON MEAT AND OTHER SHORTAGES. THE INCIDENT MAY BE WORTH A CHAPTER IN HIS EVENTUAL MEMOIRS, HOWEVER, ANDELMAN SAID.

6. THE INCIDENT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ONLY A LOCAL ONE, HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CURRENT STRAIN IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS NOR WITH THE TRIALS IN MOSCOW, AN ASSESSMENT WITH WHICH ANDELMAN CONCURS.
SCHAUFELER

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